THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) There is no such proposal under consideration of the Government.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Law and Order in Jammu and Kashmir and North-East

642. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of law and order problem in the Jammu and Kashmir and North-East region of the country; and

(b) the details of concrete steps taken by Government to improve the situation in these areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) and (b) Jammu and Kashmir—Basically the Law and Order problem in Jammu and Kashmir is created by the Terrorists sponsored from across the border. There have been continued efforts on the part of Pak ISI and Pro-Pak militant outfits to induct mercenaries from across the border into J&K with a view to carry out terrorist activities. During the year 1999, 821 civilians and 356 security personnel were killed by terrorists. The Security Forces killed 1082 militants during 1999.

The Government has adopted a multi pronged approach which includes, *inter-alia*, strengthening border management, neutralising plans of the militants by proactive action against them in the hinterland, gearing up intelligence machinery, greater functional integration through an institutional framework of Operation Groups and Intelligence Group of the UHQ at all levels, improved technology, weapons and equipments for security forces etc.

Steps have also been taken afresh to flush out militants, check infiltration and curb militant activities including closer vigil on the border by intensive patrolling and extensive search operations.

N.E. Region: Presence of long porous borders has facilitated the movement of insurgent groups as well as the inflow of illegal arms into the region, besides the large scale of influx of illegal migrants into the country. Pak ISI has also been assisting the insurgents. Lack of employment opportunities other than in Government sector has also fuelled the influx of neo-literate youth into insurgent groups.

Steps taken by the Government to deal with insurgency situation in N.E. States include, *inter-alia*, deployment of additional units of Central Para Military Forces and Army; improved coordination and sharing of intelligence; modernisation/upgradation of State Police Forces; sanction of Special Central assistance, reimbursement of security related expenditure; declaration of the most seriously affected areas as "disturbed areas' and notification of the major insurgent groups as 'Unlawful associations'. The situation is also kept under watch and is reviewed from time to time for taking appropriate action. State Governments are also sensitised from time to time to deal with the situation effectively.

Bill to Prohibit Construction of Places of Worship

643. SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether as a move to tackle the Pakistan-ISI menace aimed at disturbing the peace and order along northern borders, Government of Uttar Pradesh has sent for President's assent a Bill proposing to prohibit the construction of places of worship-temples, mosques, churches without the prior prermission of the District Magistrate concerned;

(b) whether government consider it to be move to curb the freedom of worship of the minorities in the garb of containing disruptive activities of the ISI; and

(c) the steps already taken and being taken by Government to remove the apprehensions of the miniorities in this regard;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) to (c) the Uttar Pradesh regulation of Public Religious Buildings and Places bill, 2000 has been passed by the State Legislature recently. However, the Bill has been reserved by the Governor for the consideration/assent of the President.

The Bill seeks to regulate the use of a building as public religious building and the use of a place as public religious place or for the construction of a public religious building with a view to ensuring public order in the State.

The provisions of the Bill are under examination in consultation with the concerned Ministries/departments of the Central Government.